

Claim 2, recites:

A method of reducing errors in a plurality of accession records stored in a database of an accession processing system where each accession record includes a plurality of fields, comprising the steps of:

- a) generating a plurality of error type records, each record defining criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error;
- b) storing the plurality of error type records in a database of the accession processing system;
- c) retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;
- d) retrieving one of the plurality of error type records;
- e) determining whether the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records; and
- f) indicating in a database that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is satisfied.

The present invention as recited by claim 2 includes a flexible method of defining an infinite number of possible errors conditions for one or more fields of an accession record. Step a) recites generating error type records where EACH record DEFINES criteria for DETERMINING when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error. Step b) stores the created error type or definition record. Then steps d) and e) involve applying the error definition to a retrieved accession record. The '341 patent teaches (see col. 6, lines 54 to 56) selecting one or more check boxes "to individually select error codes that will be worked on the transactions of mainframe 20". (Col. 6, lines 55 to 56 of the '341 patent). Thus a user the '341 patent is limited to the predefined and fixed number of error codes presented for selection on a "setup screen" (Col. 6, line 53 of the '341 patent).

The '341 patent does not teach, suggest, or motive a person to generate a plurality of error type records where each error record defines criteria for determining whether one or more fields of an accession record represent an error. The '341 patent only permits a person to select one or more predefined, pre-programmed error codes not generate their own error

criteria. The '341 patent also does not teach retrieving one of these created and stored error criteria records to apply the criteria against a retrieved accession record. The '341 patent only permits a user to select the one or more predefined error codes. Applicants' contend that these differences are substantial and that the '341 patent accordingly does not teach, suggest, or motivate a person to practice the invention recited by claim 2. Applicants' reiterate that the invention recited by claim 2 enables a user to flexibly maintain many different error criteria combinations whereas the '341 patent is limited to the pre-programmed error codes.

Claims 3-10:

Claims 3-10 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants contend these claims are also allowable over the '341 patent and respectfully request reconsideration of these claims.

Claim 11 recites:

An accession processing system for reducing errors in accession records, comprising:

- a) a database including a plurality of accession records where each accession record includes a plurality of fields;
- b) an updatable database including a plurality of error type records, each error type record defining criteria for determining when one or more fields of an accession record represent an error;
- c) means for retrieving one of the plurality of accession records;
- d) means for retrieving one of the plurality of error type records;
- e) an accession error indication database including records that indicate the error types determined to exist in at least one of the plurality of accession records;
- f) means for determining whether the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is satisfied by the one of the plurality of accession records; and
- g) means for updating the accession error indication database to indicate that the one of the plurality of accession records has the error type when the error criteria defined by the one of the plurality of error type records is satisfied.

Claim 11 is similar to claim 2 where claim 11 recites a processing system including an updatable error type record database. In addition to the arguments presented above for claim 2 Applicants note that the '341 patent does not teach, suggest, or motivate a person to create a processing system with an updatable database of error type records. As noted the '341 patent only permits a user to select one or more fixed, predetermined error codes. The '341 patent does not teach or suggest an error criteria database as recited in claim 11. In view of these critical and substantial differences and the arguments presented above for claim 2, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 11 is allowable over the '341 patent.

Claims 12-19:

Claims 12-19 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants contend these claims are also allowable over the '341 patent and respectfully request reconsideration of these claims.

Claim 20:

Claim 20 recites an invention an invention similar to the invention recited in claim 2. Applicants respectfully contend that claim 20 is allowable over the '341 patent based on the arguments presented above for claim 2.

Claims 21-28:

Claims 21-28 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants contend these claims are also allowable over the '341 patent and respectfully request reconsideration of these claims.

Claim 29:

Claim 29 recites an invention an invention similar to the invention recited in claim 2. Applicants respectfully contend that claim 29 is allowable over the '341 patent based on the arguments presented above for claim 2. Claim 29 includes retrieving one of a group of error type records as recited in claim 2 and using the criteria recited in record to determine whether a retrieved accession record includes an error. The '341 patent does not teach or suggest retrieving error type records, it only teaches using predetermined, programmed, selectable error codes. Applicants respectfully contend that claim 29 is allowable over the '341 patent.

Claims 30-37:

Claims 30-37 are dependent directly or indirectly on claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants contend these claims are also allowable over the '341 patent and respectfully request reconsideration of these claims.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Merle Richman, Applicants' Attorney at 858 320-2030 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, Applicants respectfully contend that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

July 6, 2004

Date



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